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THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL
LIBRARIES

No. 9.

July, 1959

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14, Gordon Square,
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Editorial notes

It has long been the Committee's wish that an issue should be devoted to documentary reproduction and allied subjects, but so far this has not been possible. However, the firm of Micro Methods Ltd., recently held a two-day exhibition of equipment for the reading of microproductions which I attended, and as a result the enclosed leaflets are distributed for the information of members. It is no part of this Association's function to sponsor the commercial products of any particular firm, but I think I would go so far as to say that anyone contemplating the acquisition of any items of such equipment would be advised to see what Micro Methods offer before finally deciding. From what I saw it would be possible to buy two machines which would, between them, cover all ordinary requirements. One is a microfilm viewer which can be used by an individual seated at his desk; or by a simple adjustment, the image can be projected on to a screen or wall for use by a group. In the same position this viewer can, with a special additional fitting, accommodate lantern slides and transparencies of the newer 2" x 2" type. (This is the size which the major photographic firms are trying so hard to popularise). The other viewer would handle microfiches, microcards, and the larger proprietary opaques - Microprint and Microlex.

But perhaps of more interest to members of our Association are the other leaflets listing items already available in microfilm. This is a growing field, and there are competing interests in it. In addition to Micro Methods there is the firm of Iota Services, Ltd., which is actively canvassing for suggestions for items to be microcopied because of scarcity or value or poor condition.

Another organisation is the International Documentation Centre, based in Stockholm, which issues a periodical (Micro library) which lists items already available and projected. The issue for Jan./Feb. 1959 deals, for instance, with the issue of Migne's Patrologia on microfiche, "at the exceptionally low price of ~~£~~1,250 (~~£~~450)". It goes on to say that many libraries have stated that the price is too heavy a charge on their annual budgets, and so the work is to be made available on a subscription basis. About 120 volumes will be recorded annually for 3 years, the positive copies being distributed in October and November of each year at an annual cost of ~~£~~450. In addition, for the benefit of libraries wishing to complete their imperfect sets of Migne, separate volumes will be purchasable at ~~£~~5 each. Other items reported are, e.g. Corpus Reformatorum, Helis Saxonum, 1834-1944, at ~~£~~600; and, Corpus scriptorum eccles. lat. Holder, Pechler-Tempsky. Vindobonae. 78 vols. complete, at ~~£~~390. Anyone interested in pursuing this further should write to the I.D.C. at Postbox 405, Stockholm-Vällingby, Sweden.

From time to time news has reached the Committee of the formation in France of an "Association des bibliothèques de sciences religieuses", and much of this issue is given up to translations and accounts of the relevant documents.

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Members will be glad to learn that the articles by Dr. Lamb on Scottish libraries which appeared in our 1958 issues, are to receive a wider circulation. I had proposed to the Library Association that in an amplified form they might be suitable for inclusion in its series of "Pamphlets", but it has been decided instead to publish them in the Library Association record.

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In future issues I shall be willing to include lists of duplicates available for disposal, or lists of wants, if members will let me have them. The entries may be in any form convenient for the sender, but they must be legible, and they must state clearly the name and address of the library concerned.

I shall also be willing to consider publication of correspondence from members in so far as it is relevant to Association matters.

R. J. Hoy

Larousse encyclopedia of mythology. A note has been received about the proposed publication, in September, of this work, which has been translated from the French by Richard Aldington and Delano Ames, with an introduction by Robert Graves. It is described as "the first truly complete encyclopedia of world mythology to be published for the English reader".

The point about the notice is that until December 1959 the price will be 50/-, a saving of 13/-.

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I have come into possession of an important list of publications entitled Evangelische Theologie: eine Auswahl deutscher Bücher, issued by the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e. ., Frankfurt am Main, Grosser Hirschgraben 17-19. The compilation of the catalogue was in the hands of Dr. Klaus-Dietrich Staemmler, of Stuttgart, with the co-operation of Prof. Dr. Edward Lohse, of Kiel. The entries go up to July 15th, 1958. There are 144 pages of this catalogue and I shall be glad to lend it to anyone interested, but presumably copies may be obtained from the Börsenverein at the address given above. [Editor.]

The French Association of libraries of religion

The first item is a document by M. Paul Mech, dated Lyons, October 1957. It was accompanied by a specimen list of French publications of 1956 which formed the subject of a final paragraph of the memorandum, which has been omitted from the following translation. This list was passed to Father Courtney and was partly responsible for the issue of the British list of 1957 publications which was distributed with this Bulletin in 1958. The proposed successor to this was described by Father Courtney in the Extra Issue of May 1959. I would question the accuracy of M. Mech's assertion that national bibliographies are difficult to obtain outside the country of origin. Certainly the British National Bibliography can be ordered in the ordinary way through any reputable bookseller, as can those of other Western European countries which are published. [Editor.]

Project for the compilation of annual selective national lists of new publications in religion and theology.

In so far as he is not adequately helped by a Selection Committee or by his academic colleagues the Librarian of a Faculty of Theology finds his task particularly difficult in the matter of the acquisition of new scholarly works published abroad. If he is to keep his library up-to-date in respect of such knowledge he cannot afford not to buy any really important works in any of the related fields (biblical exegesis, patristics, liturgy, christian archaeology, etc.). But his finances forbid the purchase of works which are mediocre or of doubtful value.

In order to make his information complete and to ensure the proper choice he must, without doubt, have certain working tools at his disposal. None of these at present available corresponds exactly to his requirements or can provide the assistance he needs.

National bibliographies (e.g. Bibliographie de la France, with its Livres du mois and its Livres de l'année; the Deutsche Bibliographie, etc.) are not easy to obtain outside the countries in which they appear, and if they are exhaustive they are not critical.

The specialist international bibliographies (e.g. the bibliographical section of Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique; the 'Elenchus bibliographicus' of Biblica; the bibliography 'Ephemerides theologiae lovanienses', etc.) are not critical.

The selective national bibliographies, (e.g. Bulletin critique du livre français, British book news, etc.) do not afford sufficient space to scholarly works on religion and theology.

The book reviews in periodicals do not ordinarily seek to cover the whole scholarly output. The appearance or non-appearance of any particular book frequently depends upon accidental circumstances - diverse and variable interests of those responsible for the publications, the caprice of publishers in distributing review copies, the needs of the library to which the administration of the periodical is attached. As for the opinions of reviewers, these are often affected by considerations other than academic.

The 'bulletins' contained in periodicals seldom claim to review, or even to mention, all the important works published within one discipline during a given period, and do not cover all the subjects which interest a Faculty of Theology. Reviews and bulletins often appear very belatedly, whereas workers in the field need information which is up-to-date.

While awaiting the moment when the Librarian of a Faculty of Theology will be able to receive, for each country, an annual bulletin showing, as far as possible, all the important works appearing throughout the whole field of religion and theology, and containing critical appreciations of each item (such as the Theologische Rundschau), we propose the production in each country of a simple list of such works, and of the distribution of that list to the Faculties of Theology of the other countries.

The criteria for inclusion in such a list would be -

1. Publication within a certain country and within a given period (e.g. France, 1956). (Works in French published in Switzerland or Belgium would not be included and would form the contents of a separate list).
2. The subject concerns religion or theology, directly or indirectly.
3. Its scholarly value is of international standard; it contributes to the progress of a religious subject by an original contribution which makes it useful, if not indispensable, beyond the frontiers of the country in which it is composed. It has no equivalent in another language.

The following are excluded - works of popularisation, even at a level which provides an original contribution to scholarly research; all translations from modern languages (German, English, Spanish, Italian, Modern Latin) except where there is justification, e.g. in cases where alterations introduced by an author into a translation make it virtually a revised edition; or where the translation is from a less widely understood language, e.g. Polish, Russian, etc.

The list would be simply an enumeration without detailed annotation. It would be intended to draw the attention of librarians to works of scholarly importance. Each librarian, before reaching a decision, would consult the reviews in periodicals and the opinions of his specialist colleagues. In this way his choice would at least be guided so as not to overlook any important work, and so that he were not recommended to any mediocre work.

Paul Hech.

New publication. The Baptist handbook, 1959. London, Carey Kingsgate Press. 17/6d.

Initial list of ecclesiastical
libraries of religion

The list constitutes the embryo of a register of libraries described as "bibliothèques ecclésiastiques de sciences religieuses" in France.

The large-scale publication by Unesco entitled Répertoire des bibliothèques de France is in 3 volumes, but in spite of the care which went into this work it omits numerous libraries, and especially a number of ecclesiastical libraries. Although it includes the Catholic universities one searches it in vain for important monasteries, great seminaries, and even several faculties of theology or philosophy. But these libraries contain a collection of theological works difficult to find elsewhere and of unsuspected richness.

The list resulted from a Conference held in October 1957; it contains details of 10 important libraries. This is admitted to be a small number but the hope is expressed that as many other libraries as possible will complete a questionnaire and so permit the publications of details of their contents and of the facilities they offer.

The details asked for in the case of each library fall under 7 headings - I - Name, address, etc. II - Number of volumes, journals, mss., etc. III - History of the library. IV - Publications issued. V - Rules and conditions of admission. VI - Facilities for documentary reproduction. VII - Printed catalogue. Published information.

The list contains information under all these headings about the following libraries - 1. Chantilly. Facultés de Théologie et de Philosophie. 2. Abbaye Sainte Marie de la Pierre qui Vire par St. Léger-Vauban. 3. Le Saulchoir. Facultés Dominicaines. 4. Ligugé. Abbaye Saint-Martin. 5. Lyon. Faculté de Théologie (s.j.). 6. Lyon. Université Catholique. 7. Paris. Abbaye Sainte Marie o.s.b. 8. Paris. Bibliothèque Franciscaine Provinciale. 9. Paris. Institut Catholique. 10. Paris. Séminaire Sainte Sulpice.

The same group of libraries; calling themselves "Association des Bibliothèques de Sciences Religieuses", have collaborated to produce a "Catalogue collectif des périodiques en cours, 1958". There must be other libraries in this Association which have not co-operated in this union list, as those which have done so are numbered 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. There are about 900 titles in the list, and in each case only the title is quoted, followed by the numbers referring to the libraries possessing

the title. Holdings are not stated, but wherever library-numbers are followed by the sign . this means that that library holds at least 90 per cent of the run of that particular journal.

The list deliberately excludes daily and weekly publications (with certain exceptions), 'house' journals and those of minimal interest. On the other hand some journals have been included which are not directly concerned with "sciences religieuses" but which should be consulted from time to time.

This list does not duplicate similar catalogues issued in France - neither "Liste de périodiques français et étrangers en cours conservés dans les bibliothèques et centres de documentation des départements", because it brings together libraries spread through several Departments (Seine, Oise, Rhône, Vienne, Yonne); nor the "Inventaire permanent des périodiques étrangers en cours (IPPEC)" because it records French as well as foreign journals; it records also the holdings of certain libraries not included in IPPEC. It has, furthermore, the advantage of grouping together the journals of the principal libraries devoted to one or the other of the "sciences religieuses".

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The remaining documents comprise the provisional constitution of the French body; report of the meeting of October 28 1959 [sic], in Paris, and a set of "Notes pratiques" governing the operation of the exchange service ("Service d'Entr'aide") operated by the libraries of the group.

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[Note: All these documents have been passed to the Rev. Roger Thomas, Librarian of Dr. Williams's Library, 14, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. at his request. No doubt they will eventually find their way into the keeping of our Hon. Librarian, Miss M.E. Edmondston, Sion College Library, Victoria Embankment, London, E.C.4.]

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Sierra Leone bulletin of religion, published by the Board of the Faculty of Theology of Fourah Bay College. 2 issues per annum, annual sub. 4/-. Orders to A.F.Walls, Sierre Leone bulletin of religion, Fourah Bay College, Freetown, S.L.

Lockyer (H.) All the men of the Bible. A portrait gallery and reference library of more than 3,000 Biblical characters. 2nd ed. London, Pickering and Inglis, 1958. 27/6d. [Previous ed. 1958, by Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Mich.]

Dr. Williams's Library

The approved description of Dr. Williams's Library says that it is "primarily a theological library intended for the use of ministers, students, and other persons engaged in the study of philosophy, theology, ecclesiastical history, the history of religions and kindred subjects; it will be found useful for the study of history, sociology, the history of language and literature, and classical literature both ancient and modern. The Library does not supply fiction, or books on mathematics, music, natural history, physical science, or medicine; nor does it supply elementary text books or class books."

Like many another old established library, Dr. Williams's Library began as a general library, in the days nevertheless when the chief interest of a general library was apt to be theology. In the course of time the field of interest has narrowed until to-day it might properly be called a special library in Philosophy, Theology and Church History. But it still aims to supply a background to what may be called a scholarly minister's own library, so that he may look to it not only for costly or rare editions of source texts etc. that he may need on occasion but also for good standard works in other fields, such as economics, sociology, history, and literature.

Originally, and until the War, it was a free library for those admitted as readers according to the rules laid down by the Trustees, who require the submission of two guarantors one of whom must be a professional man. It is still a free library (on the same terms) for reference purposes, but those who wish also to borrow books for home reading are now required to pay a subscription (basically a guinea a year with a reduction to half a guinea for ministers and clergy). As the Library maintains a postal service, it can be readily used by country readers and even by readers abroad. In the past this has been one of the most valuable services of the Library, though it has been impaired by the recent high cost of postage, for in England no benevolent Government provides a rate similar to that in America where library material may be posted at four cents for the first pound and one cent for each additional pound.

What has been described above is what we may call the modern library, for there are in reality two libraries side by side, one modern and the other ancient. It is the modern library in which the vast majority of present day readers are interested and it was for their needs chiefly that the library catalogue, published in 1955, was prepared. Though it runs to some 900 pages and contains entries of some 30,000 books, it includes only books added to the library in the first half of the present century and published during the same period, but it nevertheless contains the bulk of what the majority of readers want. Large as this volume is it catalogues less than a third of the books in the library, which now total nearly 100,000. Nineteenth Century publications account for perhaps another third of the library. The remainder constitute the older library of historic interest to research workers.

Much of this older library dates back to the foundation, when Daniel Williams, a London Presbyterian minister, who died in 1716, left his own books as a public library. These books also contained the library of

another prominent Presbyterian minister, William Bates, one of the ejected of 1662, which Williams had bought on Bates' death in 1699. The wide European interests of Bates are reflected in the first catalogue of the library, printed in 1727, which runs to some 400 pages. Later accessions have greatly swelled the number of older historic works. Later catalogues and supplements down to 1885, though informative, are no substitute for the complete card catalogue maintained in the Library. From the nature of things the older books in the Library, and also its manuscript collections, reflect the dominant interests of Dissenting ministers of those times and especially of those Presbyterians who in time became Unitarian. Because of the importance of these older collections, a complete recataloguing was undertaken after the war with the help of the Pilgrim Trust and the Hibbert Trust. There have long been a Congregational bibliography (by H.M.Dexter, 1880) and a Baptist bibliography (by W.T.Whitley, 1916, 1922) and it was thought that such a recataloguing would make a major contribution to a bibliography of the English Presbyterians down to the end of the eighteenth century. This in fact it has done, and, though there are many relevant works which the Library does not possess there is little that is not at least indicated. But the catalogue (housed at the Library where it may be consulted), is also much more than an English Presbyterian bibliography, for inevitably it touches all sides of English religious life. Even so there is much in the older library beyond the scope of such a catalogue, for the Library owns one of the finest collections in the Country of French Protestant literature of the seventeenth century. Medical historians, historians of science, and those interested in old editions of the Greek and Latin classics will find a quite considerable amount of literature of interest to them. There is, too, a not inconsiderable collection of Hebraica and Judaica, catalogued by the Semitic scholar, R.Travers Herford, when he was Librarian during the first World War.

As is natural there are also other special-interest collections. The most extensive is the collection of the letters, memoirs and diaries of Henry Crabb Robinson, Times Foreign Correspondent early in the last century, who knew and corresponded with many of the literary figures of his day and with many who were not literary figures. So Wordsworth, Coleridge, Lamb and others are unusually well represented. Then Christopher Walton left to the Library his collection of theosophical books together with manuscripts of William Law and of some lesser known mystical writers. There is also a small but interesting collection of editions of Thomas à Kempis. To these may be added the inevitable little group of incunabula and of picturesque mediaeval manuscripts; and the tale might be extended.

It may be noted here that the Library's relevant holdings are for the most part in S.T.C. (and will be completely so in the forthcoming revised edition). Wing also notes works in the Library, when he knows of them, but his knowledge is confined to one or more of the older printed catalogues and reproduces their errors. Most of the Library's holdings of periodicals are recorded in BUCOP. The Library's serials are not there recorded however, but a record of those still running in the present century will be found in the 1955 printed catalogue.

Besides this 1955 catalogue of twentieth century books and an annual bulletin of accessions the Library has published a number of Occasional Papers concerning some of the Library's special interests. To help the Library through difficult times a society, the Friends of Dr. Williams's Library, was formed soon after the War and this society has each year published the lecture delivered at its annual meeting in October. The first of these, by the former librarian, Mr. S.K. Jones, is on Dr. Williams and his Library (1948) and gives more information about the Library and its origins than is possible here, as also does the now out-of-print Short Account of the Charity & Library ... published by the Trustees in 1917.

Roger Thomas.

A new publication which may be of use to those responsible for small libraries is Simplified cataloguing rules for general use in private libraries; author and title entries, issued by the Private Libraries Association, Parkfield Crescent, North Harrow, Middlesex. (7/6d.) It is not claimed that these rules are really suitable for other than private libraries, but they may suggest useful ways of simplifying existing codes of rules in suitable cases.

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Three volumes have appeared in a new series of publications about oriental religions, designed to present to Western readers the major religions of the world from the point of view of the followers of those faiths. They are The Path of the Buddha; The Religion of the Hindus; and, Islam - the straight path.

The method used in preparation was the same for each volume. An outline was prepared designed to present the subject to Western readers; this was then checked with scholars in the religions in many countries of Asia, who were asked to suggest the names of specially apt authors for the purpose in view. Those most frequently mentioned were invited to write the various chapters, but the revision was carried out in such a way as to ensure that each volume is a consistent whole, and reads as a continuous account rather than just a collection of essays.

These books may be said to supplement other materials available to Western scholars; they are published by the Ronald Press Co., of New York with the aid of grants amounting to \$ 60,000 provided by the Hazen Foundation.

[This account is derived from that appearing in Orient et Occident [pub. by Unesco], 2(ii), April, 1959.]

